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COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-seventh session
9 June-3 July 1997
Agenda item 8

DRAFT REPORT

Rapporteur: Mrs. Sharon BRENNEN-HAYLOCK (Bahamas)

Addendum

REPORTS OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT (item 6)

Coordination of policy and programming frameworks for more effective development cooperation

1. At its 5th meeting, on 11 June 1997, the Committee considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) entitled "Coordination of policy and programming frameworks for more effective development cooperation" (A/51/636-E/1996/104) and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon (A/52/115-E/1997/47). The report was presented to the Committee for Programme and Coordination by its author, Mr. Sumihiro Kuyama.

Discussion

2. Some delegations expressed their thanks to JIU for preparing an excellent study and described it as a high-quality analytical document, as well as a valuable and timely contribution to the current restructuring process in the economic, social and related fields of activity of the United Nations system. They also expressed their agreement with all the recommendations contained in the report.

3. A number of delegations stressed the importance of coordination, in particular at the country level. In this context, one delegation stated that the question of how to "fill the lack of quantity with quality" in development cooperation had become increasingly important. A number of delegations made specific reference to the existing multiplicity of policy and programming

frameworks associated with development cooperation and confirmed its negative impact, as indicated in paragraphs 13 and 17 of the report. One delegation questioned the coordinating role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and pointed out that such a role should be played exclusively by the Economic and Social Council itself. Other delegations reiterated the importance of the role of the Committee in the field of coordination. One delegation also raised the question of considering JIU reports in a timely manner in order to avoid repetitive discussions of similar topics. Several delegations pointed out the discrepancies between JIU and the Administrative Committee on Coordination on some issues, as they appeared in the report, and the comments of the Administrative Committee thereon. In addition to the general comments, delegations made specific observations on a number of recommendations contained in the report. Several delegations suggested that, in the future, the comments of the Administrative Committee on JIU reports should be provided in a more timely manner.

4. Recommendation 1. One delegation expressed strong support, especially with respect to recommendation 1, which reflects the ongoing discussion in the Second Committee of the General Assembly.

5. Recommendation 2. One delegation stated that the recommendation could be further strengthened by adding a reference to the role to be played by the Member States (donors) as well as host Governments.

6. Recommendation 4. While supporting, in principle, the proposal made in this recommendation, one delegation suggested hearing the views of the United Nations Development Programme on the idea of a data bank in the resident coordinator's office.

7. Recommendation 6. One delegation held the view that the modality of regional coordination should take into account the prevailing circumstances in each region; another delegation requested an elaboration of the role which could be played by the regional commissions.

8. Recommendation 7. One delegation expressed the belief that the thrust of this recommendation could be considered within the context of General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. The Committee generally commended the report and endorsed all the recommendations contained therein, taking into account the views expressed in the discussion section. The Committee also proposed the following modification to recommendation 2:

> The addition, at the end of recommendation 2, of a new sentence reading: "Member States (donors and host Governments) should facilitate this process".

10. The Committee decided that the report, together with the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon, should be submitted to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for consideration and appropriate action.